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Howard County

Committees

Environmental Matters

Chair: Subcommittee on Land Use and Ethics

Rules and Executive Nominations

Joint Committee on Program

Open Space/Agricultural Land Preservation



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To: Marsha McLaughlin, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Columbia Downtown Redevelopment Focus Group Members

From: Liz Bobo

I regret that I cannot be with you at today's meeting due to the fact that we are in the last few days of Maryland's legislative session and I need to be in Annapolis.

The announcement that the master plan will not be sent to the Planning Board this year is good news. That decision gives the county and the community additional time needed to plan more thoroughly for traffic, roads, affordable housing, schools, open space, cultural amenities, etc.

It is important for the focus group to have more than time, however, in my opinion: we need a new direction. To that end, I believe we should review the words written on the 4 by 8 panels created by the participants sitting at the 37-plus tables on the first day of the Charrette. There was much wisdom expressed on those sheets that has not made it into the plans so far.

Regarding the process moving forward with the redevelopment of Downtown Columbia, I am concerned about the following quote from Ms. McLaughlin in the attached article from the Business Monthly, "...the public asked relatively few questions about zoning, but there were many about implementation." I believe zoning IS a major part of implementation, and I am puzzled by this comment. Perhaps, as has happened to me on more than one occasion, the confusion is in the reporting.